

PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW BIRDS
FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN CELEBES.

By ERNST HARTERT.

IN a very fine collection made by MR. ALFRED EVERETT are some very interesting birds, which are new to science, and which are characterised in the following notes. The most interesting fact illustrated by MR. EVERETT'S collection is the affinity to the avifauna of the mountains of Borneo which some of the species show. Besides these new forms, the collection contains a number of the species described by MR. J. BÜTTIKOFER in the *Notes of the Leyden Museum* 1893, such as *Merula celebensis*, *Stoparola meridionalis*, *Rhipidura teysmanni*, and *Pachycephala meridionalis*, and all those recently discovered by MESSRS. SARASIN in the same country and described by MESSRS. A. B. MEYER & L. W. WIGLESWORTH in the *Abhandl. und Berichte des Königl. Zoolog. und Anthropol. Ethnogr. Mus. Dresden*, i.e. *Zosterops anomala*, *Cryptolopha surasinorum*, *Melilestes celebensis meridionalis*, and *Pachycephala bonthaina*.

A full list of the collection will be given in the next number of this journal.

1. *Androphilus everetti* sp. nov.

Supra rufo-brunneus, *stria superciliari grisea, regione auriculari fusco-grisea, albido striata, gutture albido, pectore griseo, abdomine medio albicante-brunneo, corporis lateribus, regione anali, tibiis subcaudalibusque rufo-brunneis. Long. tot. cr. 140—150 mm., al. 55—59, cand. 56—59, tars. 23, culm. 16, digit. med. 23.

Hab. Bonthain Peak, South Celebes.

This bird, of which a series of both sexes was collected in October 1895, on Bonthain Peak and the hills surrounding it, at elevations of from about 2500 to above 6000 feet, is of great interest.

It agrees with *Androphilus aecentor* Sharpe from Mt. Kina Balu in Borneo (the type of which is before me) in all essential characters, and especially in having *only ten rectrices*, a most important character first pointed out quite recently by MR. OGLVIE GRANT. In the shape of the wing it agrees also fairly well with *A. aecentor*, the first primary being about three quarters of the second in length, the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh nearly equal and longest, the whole wing very full and rounded. The outer rectrices are about half as long as the central, and they gradually increase in length towards the middle. The rectrices are loose and soft, much as in *Sphenocacus*. The sexes are similar in colour. The tarsus is clothed with large scales, which are very distinct at the lower end, but partly fused in the middle of the tarsus.

Above dark rufous brown, darker and less rufous on the head and neck. A fairly well defined grey superciliary line. Chin and throat greyish white; ear-coverts dark brownish grey, with white shaft-lines. Primaries deep brown, bordered with rufous brown outside. Breast dark greyish. Sides of body, under tail-coverts, thighs, and vent rufous brown. Under wing-coverts dark brown. "Iris chocolate brown. Bill black, base of mandible pale brown. Legs and claws olive-brown." (A. Everett.)

2. *Chlorocharis squamiceps* sp. nov.

Capitis superioris plumis nigro-brunneis, argenteo-griseo marginatis, medio anguste albo lineatis, notaeo reliquo fusco-viridi. Gulae plumis albidis, nigrescente marginatis. Abdomine flavo, corporis lateribus virescentibus, subcaudalibus flavis. Long. tot. cr. 120—125 mm., al. 63—65, caud. 47—50, culm. 15.

Hab. Bonthain Peak, Celebes.

A large series collected by MR. EVERETT'S men on Bonthain Peak in elevations of 6000 feet and above. This species agrees structurally very well with *Chlorocharis emiliae* Sharpe. This latter genus is one of the many genera of birds the characters of which were not fully described when introduced into science. Convenient as this method is to the describer, it is very inconvenient and makes working nearly impossible to those ornithologists who are not so fortunate as to have specimens of the new genus at their disposal.

"Genus simile generi '*Cyanoderma*' dicto, sed caudā magis quadratā nec rotundatā." This is all the description (*Ibis* 1888, p. 392) of the genus, though the coloration of the species is carefully described and a good figure is given. I, however, with the type and a number of other specimens before me cannot at all agree that "*Chlorocharis*" has any relation whatever to *Cyanoderma*, a genus most closely allied and hardly generically separate from *Micornis*. There is no resemblance in the wing-formula, no resemblance in the structure of the plumage, nor any in coloration, form of tail, etc. In fact the structure almost entirely agrees with that of the genus *Zosterops*. To this latter genus, in my opinion, *Chlorocharis* is closely allied, but not to any of the *Timeliidae*.

The present new species is dark green above, brightest on the rump, top of head blackish-brown, each feather with a distinct narrow whitish shaft-line and margined with silvery grey. Ear-coverts yellowish silvery white. Chin and throat whitish, the feathers of the latter with blackish margins. Chest dirty yellow. Abdomen yellow, sides of breast and abdomen olive-green. Under tail-coverts yellow. Primaries and rectrices blackish, outer webs edged with the colour of the rump, inner webs with brownish white. Under wing-coverts whitish. Bill black, feet brown. The sexes seem to be entirely alike.

3. *Cataponera turdoides* gen. et sp. nov.

Genus ex affinitate generum "*Garrular.*," "*Rhinocichla*," et "*Alloctops*" dictorum, sed cauda fere aequali distinguenda. Ala rotundata, remige primo dimidio secundi, sexto longissimo. Digitus medius paullum tarso brevior. Tarsus lamina perpetua vestitus, imo parte paucis tantum sentellis. Naribus oblongis, plumis usque ad nares attingentibus. Spatium postoculare calvum. Rictus et mentum setis ornatis. Typus est:—

Cataponera turdoides.

Colore supra olivaceo-brunneo, capite dilutiore. Stria supraocularis lata a rostri basi usque ad occiput vergens. Subtus brunneo-olivaceo, abdomine pallidior, imo fere albescente, subcaudalibus brunnescentibus, pallidior striatis. Rostro aurantiaco. Mento albido. Long. tot. cr. 250 mm., al. 113, caud. 105, culm. 24, tars. 35, dig. med. cum ungue 32.

Hab. Bonthain Peak.

Above dark olive-brown, more olive on the interscapulum, back, and rump, more brown on the wings and tail, and lighter on the head, especially on the forehead. Underside and sides of the head brownish olive, much paler on the abdomen and nearly whitish on the lowest abdomen. Chin very pale, almost whitish; some feathers at the angle of the mouth and just below the chin with blackish tips. A broad black stripe running from the lores over the eye towards the nape. A triangular spot behind the eye bare. Under tail-coverts olive-brown with whitish shaft-stripes. Under wing-coverts greyish olive. Bill orange. Feet orange-yellow (in skin).

Several specimens from Bonthain Peak, 6000 feet and above.

Altogether of a much Thrush-like appearance. The tail is nearly square, the outer tail-feathers only about 9 mm. shorter than the central pair. The feathers of the forehead reach in two angles towards the nostrils, which are large, oblong, and but partly covered by a membrane. The gape *and the feathers of the chin* have short bristles.

The generic name is given in reference to the difficulty and hardships connected with the shooting of these birds in the great altitudes they inhabit.

4. *Siphia omissa* sp. nov.

The *Siphia* from Celebes has hitherto been considered the same as *Siphia bangumas* (Horsf.), but MESSRS. A. B. MEYER & WIGLESWORTH have already noticed that a *female* they got from MESSRS. SARASIN has "hell röthlichbraunen Zügelstreif."* This is indeed the most striking specific difference, *i.e.* that the adult *female* has the lores pale orange rufous and that this colour meets on the forehead, while the adult *female* of *S. bangumas* has two white spots on the lores, sometimes tinged with yellowish, which are widely separated from each other on the forehead. Besides this the ear-coverts are of a very deep blue, almost blackish, in *S. bangumas*, while they are brown with pale shafts and tinged with pale bluish posteriorly in *S. omissa*. The *males* of the two species are very much alike, but the upper part of the throat, just below the black chin, is not perceptibly paler than the rest of the throat in *S. omissa*, while there is a distinct though tiny white spot in *S. bangumas* and the whole throat is darker in *S. omissa*. Besides this the brighter blue colour of the forehead and line above the eye is much lighter and more distinct in *S. omissa*, where it may be said to be of a dark azure-blue. The upper surface too of the *female* is a little paler than in the *female* of *S. bangumas*, while there is very little difference in the colour of the upperside in the *males*. Of *S. omissa* I have before me a series of both sexes and young from the hills of Indrulaman, about 2500 feet high, just below Bonthain Peak (types), and a pair from the lake of Tondano, collected for Dr. A. B. Meyer in 1892. Wing: ♀ 72—73, ♂ 75—78 mm.

* *Abh. und Ber. Kön. Zool. und Anthropol. Mus. Dresden* No. 8, p. 9 (1895).